

IN THE CLAIMS

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least one layer of tufted material located between at least two outer layers of non-woven material wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers.

2. (Previously Presented) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the at least one layer of tufted material is one layer of a bi-layer structure, the bi-layer structure also comprising one of the at least two outer layers of non-woven material.

3. (Original) The nonwoven laminate of claim 2 wherein the tufted material is comprised of polymer and the non-woven material is coform.

4. (Original) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein the non-woven material is a non-woven absorbent material.

5. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material oriented to produce an inner tufted laminate, wherein the nonwoven laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two layers.

6. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein at least one of the at least two layers of tufted material has a bi-layer structure.

7. (Original) The laminate of claim 6 wherein each bi-layer structure comprises the tufted material and an outer layer of nonwoven composite material.

8. (Original) The laminate of claim 7 wherein the nonwoven composite material is coform.

9. (Original) The laminate of claim 8 wherein the tufted material is a wire-tufted material comprised primarily of meltblown polymer.

10. (Original) The laminate of claim 9 wherein the meltblown polymer is a polyolefin selected from the group consisting of polypropylene, polyethylene polybutylene, copolymers, and mixtures and blends thereof.

11. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein the at least two inner layers are thermally bondable.

12. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

13. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

14. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

15. (Original) The laminate of claim 5 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

16. (Previously Presented) An internally wire-tufted laminate comprising:
at least two coform outer layers surrounding an inner layer of tufted meltblown material, the inner layer having a plurality of inner tufts and valleys and a plurality of outer depressions, the outer depressions visible from an exterior surface of the laminate wherein the internally wire-tufted laminate does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers.

17. (Original) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the tufted meltblown material is bondable at each tuft.

18. (Original) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the inner layer of tufted meltblown material is comprised of a first layer of tufted material and a second layer of tufted material, each layer having the plurality of inner tufts and valleys and the plurality of outer depressions, further wherein the plurality of inner tufts of the first layer face the plurality of inner tufts of the second layer.

19. (Original) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the plurality of inner tufts are projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

20. (Original) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 19 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

21. (Original) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein the laminate is a disposable product selected from the group consisting of diaper, tissue, towel, wipe and any component or portion of a diaper, tissue, towel or wipe.

22. (Previously Presented) An absorbent sheet comprising:
an internally tufted laminate having at least two outer layers, wherein the absorbent sheet does not contain elastic materials or fibers between the at least two outer layers; and
an added liquid.

23. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the added liquid is selected from the group consisting of water, emollients, surfactants, fragrances, preservatives, chelating agents, pH buffers and combinations thereof.

24. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 further comprising additives selected from the group consisting of lotions, medicaments, and combinations thereof.

25. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the absorbent sheet is a personal care wet wipe.

26. (Original) The absorbent sheet of claim 23 wherein the sheet is disposable.

27. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of individual tufts.

28. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

29. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

30. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

31. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 27 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

32. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of a plurality of inner projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

33. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 32 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

34-49. (Canceled)

50. (Previously Presented) A nonwoven laminate comprising at least two layers of tufted material oriented to produce an inner tufted laminate, wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about one (1) mm in length.

51. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

52. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

53. (Previously Presented) The laminate of claim 50 wherein each tuft is a projection measuring between about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

54. (Previously Presented) An absorbent sheet comprising:
an internally tufted laminate comprised of individual tufts, wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring between at least about one (1) mm in length; and
an added liquid.

55. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about two (2) mm in length.

56. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring at least about three (3) mm in length.

57. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein each individual tuft is a projection measuring about three (3) mm and about five (5) mm in length.

58. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 54 wherein the internally tufted laminate is comprised of a plurality of inner projections configured to form an identifiable pattern.

59. (Previously Presented) The absorbent sheet of claim 58 wherein the identifiable pattern is substantially uniform.

Please add the following new claims:

60. (New) The nonwoven laminate of claim 1 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

61. (New) The nonwoven laminate of claim 5 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

62. (New) The internally wire-tufted laminate of claim 16 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.

63. (New) The absorbent sheet of claim 22 wherein an additional elastic or non-elastic layer is located adjacent to the at least two outer layers.